
Flakka

What You Need to Know



What is Flakka?

Flakka is a white or pink crystal synthetic drug that is chemically similar to bath salts. It is usually made from the chemical alpha-PVP, a synthetic version of the stimulant cathinone. Flakka is usually imported from China, Pakistan, and India. The drug is a potent, highly addictive stimulant.

What are the street names/slang terms for Flakka?

- Gravel: Resembles the colorful pebbles in the bottom of an aquarium
- \$5 Insanity: Readily available for \$5
- “Snacking”: refers to taking additional Flakka while already high

How is Flakka used?

Flakka can be swallowed, snorted, injected, or vaped in an e-cigarette or similar device.

What are the health effects of Flakka?

The small amount of research available shows that the following can occur from using Flakka:

- “Excited delirium” – extreme stimulation, paranoia and hallucinations, hyperthermia (generally a temperature of 105 degrees) and individual becomes psychotic, which can lead to violent aggression and self-injury
- Suicidal tendencies
- Dangerously high body temperature
- Aggressive and violent behavior
- Adrenaline-like strength (super human strength)
- Causes people to act erratically, uncontrollably, and dangerously
- Delusions and hallucinations (may describe being chased by someone or something)
- Heart palpitations
- Irregular heart beat
- Seizure
- Death

Excessive use has been linked with feelings of extreme anxiety, paranoia, and hallucinations. Effects can last 3-4 hours, but can also linger for several days.

What parents need to know?

- The chemical makeup of Flakka is constantly changing and it is often mixed with other substances such as crack cocaine and heroin.
- Users do not know where Flakka is being made, who’s making it, or what’s been added to it before it reaches them – making the effects very dangerous and unknown.
- Flakka is generally sold for \$5 for a tenth-of a gram, making it very cheap.
- Flakka is easy to buy in bulk.

What can parents do?

- Talk to their children about the dangers of using synthetic drugs
- Know their child’s friends
- Supervise their child’s activities
- Monitor where children spend time and their surroundings for drug paraphernalia or evidence of online purchases

Resources

Oakland County Health Division

Prior Authorization and Central Evaluation (PACE) Program

PACE is the first step to substance abuse treatment services for low income residents in Oakland County.

<https://www.oakgov.com/health/services/Pages/Substance-Abuse.aspx>

248-858-5200

Alcoholics Anonymous 248-332-3521

Alanon 248-706-1020

Narcotics Anonymous 248-543-7200



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